

SOME NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN MAE HONG SON PROVINCE

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เนื้อความย่อ

การศึกษานี้เป็นการศึกษาถึงสถานะการณ์โดยทั่วไปของการจ้างแรงงานในโรงงานอุตสาหกรรม ๔ ประเภท ที่อยู่นอกเหนือออกไปจากการเกษตรกรรมในเขตจังหวัดแม่ฮ่องสอน อันได้แก่ สวนป่า โรงเลื่อย เหมืองแร่ และหมวดการทางของกรมทางหลวง ช่วงระยะเวลาของการศึกษาอยู่ในระหว่างเดือนกุมภาพันธ์ - มิถุนายน ๒๕๒๔ ดังได้แสดงรายละเอียดเกี่ยวกับปริมาณการจ้างงาน เผ่าพันธุ์และภูมิลำเนาของคณงานที่ทำงานกระจัดกระจายอยู่ตามโรงงานแต่ละแห่ง

จากการศึกษาพบว่า ปริมาณคณงานในท้องถิ่นที่มีโอกาสได้เข้าทำงานตามโรงงานอุตสาหกรรมต่าง ๆ ดังกล่าวยังอยู่ในระดับต่ำ โดยเฉพาะคณงานหญิงที่มีโอกาสที่จะหางานทำได้น้อยมาก ดังนั้นจึงเห็นควรที่จะได้มีการวางโครงการในการพัฒนาโรงงานอุตสาหกรรมต่าง ๆ ดังกล่าว เพื่อที่จะสามารถขยายและรับคณงานในท้องถิ่นเข้าทำงานได้เป็นปริมาณที่สูงขึ้นในอนาคต

ABSTRACT

The study had been under taken in 4 nonfarm industries (forest plantation units, sawmills, mines and highway subdistrict offices) in Mae Hong Son Province during February 1981 to June 1981. Data on amount of employment, ethnicity and residence of workers are presented.

The study found that the total amount of the local workers are employed by the 4 mentioned nonform industries is very quite small, and the opportunity of the local women workers in searching for the jobs is scarce. So this will call for the Nonfarm Industry Development Programme in order to absorb more number of the local workers.

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Introduction

Mae Hong Son province is situated in the northwestern end of Thailand. It is bounded by the Union of Burma in the north and west, Tak Province in the south and Chiang Mai Province in the east. The total land area of the province is about 13,222 km.² In 1971 this included about 11,974 sq. km. and about 1,258 sq.km. of cultivated lowland plains or 90.7 and 9.3 percent respectively.² Administratively, Mae Hong Son province is divided into 5 districts (Amphoe) namely, Muang Mae Hong Son, Khun Yuam, Pai, Mae La Noi, and Mae Sariang, with an estimated population of 132,391 people in the 1981.³

Despite the limitation of cultivated plains area, and the high rate of population growth, the majority of the provincial population as the population of the whole country were engaged in agriculture. This means that upland farmers practice their shifting cultivation on forest land. The rate of forest depletion by shifting cultivators has become higher over time. In a period of 14 years, from 1961 to 1974, the deforested area of the country increased an alarming amount of about 10.08 million hectares, or an average of 0.77 million hectares per year.⁴ The most recent study by Wacharakitti (1977), using LANDSAT-2 imagery, showed that the existing productive forest area was only 131,785 km.² or 25.35 percent of the nation.⁵ This suggests that shifting cultivation is a very important problem of the country. The development of nonfarm industry in areas of shifting cultivation is one of many alternatives to overcome such problem.

The purpose of this report is to highlight nonfarm employment in Mae Hong Son province. The results of the study may help the policy makers to formulate a nonfarm industry development program, in order to absorb more landless agricultural workers.

Objectives of the study are :

1. To estimate total employment in some nonfarm industries,
2. To determine the ethnicity and place residence of workers in each nonfarm industry,

3. To ascertain the rates of wages and salary paid in each nonfarm industry.

Research Methodology

1. Data collection

The information used in the study includes both primary and secondary data. The primary data were obtained from a field survey of some nonfarm industries in Mae Hong Son province, namely, forest plantation units, sawmills, plywood factory, mines and highway subdistrict offices. The secondary data were obtained from the National Statistical Office, Royal Forestry Department, Department of Mineral Resources, and Royal Highway Department.

2. Sampling scheme

The proportion of plants in each nonfarm industry to be used for this study varied, depending on constraints of time and access.

The outline of sampling scheme is as follows :

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Total Number of Sites</u>	<u>No. in Sample</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Forest plantation units	15	6	40
Sawmills	6	5	83.33
Mines	12	5	41.66
Highway subdistrict offices	7	2	28.57

3. Surveying period

The field survey was conducted from February 1981 to June 1981.

Employment in Forest Plantations

Forest plantation units are a major source of employment. At present, there are 15 forest plantation units in Mae Hong Son province. In the forest plantation units there are two categories of work, temporary and permanent. Most of the temporary and permanent workers are male.

They are incharge of driving and maintaining the cars and tractors, preparing the land, planting the trees, weeding and thinning, etc. The permanent workers receive salary of about 1,200 baht a month. The temporary workers work only during the dry season or after the rice growing season. The daily wage is about 31 baht.

The amount of employment in the sample forest plantation units is shown in Table 1. The total employment in the sample forest plantation units is 1,122 (725 men and 397 women); of these, 192 are permanent workers (155 men and 37 women), and 930 are temporary workers (570 men and 360 women). The average number per plantation unit of permanent workers sex is 25.83 male and 6.17 female; and there 95 male and 60 female temporary workers. By using the average number of workers per unit, the total population of workers in forest plantation units may be estimated at about 2,804 (1,812 men and 992 women). This would include 479 (387 men and 92 women) or 17.08 percent who are permanent workers, and 2,325 (1,425 men and 900 women) or 82.92 percent who are temporary workers.

Ethnicity of Forest Workers

The ethnicity of workers in the sample forest plantation units is shown in Table 2. There are 5 ethnic groups of workers in the sample forest plantation units, namely, Northern Thai, Central Thai Yai, Karen and Lua'. Northern Thai is the majority ethnic group. There are 820 northern Thai workers (496 men and 324 women) or 73.08 percent of the total workers. There are 4 central Thai (0.36% of all workers, all men), 188 Thai Yai (10.52% of all workers, 86 men and 32 women), 99 Karen (8.82% of all workers, 88 men and 11 women) and 81 Lua' (7.2% of all worker, 51 men and 30 women).

Place of Residence of Forest Workers

The domicile of workers in the sample forest plantation units is also shown in Table 2, classified into 4 categories, namely, Mae Hong Son, northern provinces except Mae Hong Son, Central Thailand, and Burma.

More workers come from Mae Hong Son Province than any other province, that is 351 (241 men and 110 women), or 31.28 percent of all workers. Out of this 275, or 31.28 percent of all workers. Out of this 275, or 78.35 percent, live in the villages or tambons where the sample forest plantation units are located, this included 78 Northern Thai (46 men and 32 women), 113 Thai Yai (81 men and 32 women) and 84 Karen workers (73 men and 11 women). Sixty workers or 17.09 percent (55 men and women) come from the other tambons, but are in the same amphoe as the forest plantation units are located. This included 55 Northern Thai (20 men and 35 women) and 5 Thai Yai men workers. Sixteen men or 4.56 percent are Northern Thai workers from the other amphoes.

There are 752 workers (465 men and 287 women), or 67.02 percent, whose places of residence are in northern provinces other than Mae Hong Son. Out of this, 671 (414 men and 257 women) or 89.22 percent are Northern Thai from Chiang Mai, Phrae, Lampang and Chiang Rai; and 81 workers (51 men and 30 women) or 10.78 percent are Lua' from Chiang Mai Province.

In addition, 4 men, or 0.35 percent of the total, are Central Thai from Ayutthaya, Kanchana Buri and Petchburi and 15 men workers or 1.34 percent of the total workers are Karen who have migrated from Burma.

Employment in Sawmills and Plywood Factory

At present, there are six sawmills and one plywood packing case factory in Mae Hong Son. Five sawmills were selected to be in the study. There are also two categories of sawmill work, temporary and permanent. Most workers are male. The permanent workers are in charge of repairing, maintaining and operating the sawmill, inspecting the lumber, and giving guidance to the sawmill owners, etc. These permanent workers receive salary of about 1,600 - 3,800 baht a month. The temporary workers are in charge of carrying lumber and wood waste, and cleaning the sawmill areas, etc. The average daily wage is about 34 baht.

Employment in sawmills is represented in Table 3. Total employment in the sample sawmills is 323 (244 men and 79 women). Out of this, 54 are permanent workers (49 men and 5 women), and 269 are temporary workers (95 men and 74 women). The average number of permanent workers per mill is 9.8 male and 1 female. Mills average 39 male and 14.8 female temporary workers. Total employment in the sawmill industry can be estimated in the same manner as for forest plantations. The estimated total employment in the sawmill industry is about 388 (293 men and 95 women). This estimate includes 16.7 percent permanent workers, for a total of 65 (59 men and 6 women), and 83.3 percent or 323 temporary workers (234 men and 89 women). In addition, there is one plywood packing case factory. This plywood factory employed 62 workers (27 men and 35 women). The aggregate employment in the sawmill industry and plywood packing case factory is 450 (320 men and 130 women).

Ethnicity of Sawmill and Plywood Factory Workers

Table 4 shows that there are 4 ethnic groups of workers in the sample sawmills, namely, Northern Thai Northeastern Thai, Central Thai and Karen. Northern Thai 241 workers (162 men and 79 women) is the majority ethnic group (74.61 %). There are 61 Northeastern Thai (18.88 %), 12 Central Thai (3.72 %), and 9 Karen (2.79 %) workers, all of whom are male

Place of Residence of Sawmill and Plywood Factory Workers

The residence of workers in the sample sawmills is shown in Table 4. Most workers came from Mae Hong Son, that is 243 (164 men and 79 women) or 75.23 percent of all workers. Of these, 240 or 98.77 percent come from villages or tambons where the sawmills are located. This included 234 Northern Thai (155 men and 79 women), and 6 Karen men; 3 Karen men are from other tambons, but in the same amphoe where the sawmills are located. All the remaining workers are male. They are from northern provinces excluding Mae Hong Son (7 persons, 2.17 %), and from the Northeastern (61 persons, 18.88 %) and Central part (12 persons, 3.72 %) of Thailand.

Employment in Mines⁶

Mae Hong Son is a source of several kinds of minerals including tin, fluorite, scheelite, wolfram, barite, antimony, etc. At present (1981), there are 12 operating mines. In 1980 - 81 the annual production of fluorite was 41,793 metric tons, barite (2,429 tons), wolfram (99 tons), scheelite (24 tons), tin (23 tons) and antimony (11 tons). The employment in mines also includes temporary and permanent workers. The permanent workers receive salaries of about 1,200 - 3,500 baht a month, and the daily wage for temporary workers is about 27 baht.

Table 5 shows that the number of people employed in the sample mines is 319 (291 men and 28 women). Out of this, 273 are temporary workers (245 men and 28 women), and 46 men are permanent workers. The average number of temporary and permanent workers distributed by sex is: temporary, 49 men, 0.56 women; and permanent, 9.2 (all men) respectively. The estimated total employment in the mining industry is about 765 (698 men and 77 women), this includes 655 (588 men and 67 women) temporary workers and 110 men of permanent workers or 85.63 and 14.37 percent of the total employment respectively.

Ethnicity of Mine Workers

Table 6, shows that there are four ethnic groups of workers in mines, namely, 62 Northern Thai (19.44 %), 1 Central Thai (0.31 %), 1 Northeastern Thai (0.31 %) and 255 Karen (79.94 %, 227 and 28 women). All of the Northern Thai, Central Thai and Northeastern Thai workers are males.

Place of Residence of Mine Workers

The domicile of workers in mines is shown in Table 6. Most mine workers (64.26 %) are Karen who have come from Burma, the se include 108 men and 25 women for a total of 205.

There are 98 workers (93 men and 3 women) or 30.73 percent, whose domiciles are in Mae Hong Son. Out of this, 30 (27 men and 3 women) or 30.61 percent are Karen workers who come from the villages or tambons near the location of mines. There 68 men, or 69.39 percent, who are from other tambons but still in the same amphoe as mines are located. This includes 48 Northern Thai and 20 Karen workers. The remaining workers include 14 from Northern province excepting Mae Hong Son (4.39 %), and 1 each from the Central and Northeastern part of Thailand.

Employment in Highway Subdistrict Offices and Highway Construction Projects

In Mae Hong Son, there are seven highway subdistrict offices and one highway construction project (Amphoe Mae Sariang to Amphoe Ta Song Yang, Tak). All of the workers in highway subdistricts are permanent workers. They are in charge of repairing and maintaining the highway, driving cars and tractors, etc. The workers receive salary of about 1,400 baht a month.

Table 7 shows that 32 men are employed in the highway subdistrict offices. The average number of workers per office is 16. From this sample the estimated total employment in highway district offices is about 112 men. In addition, the highway construction project employed 27 men and 35 women workers. The estimated total employment in highway subdistrict office and highway construction project would thus be 174, including 139 men and 35 women.

Ethnicity of Highway Workers

Table 8 shows that there are 2 ethnic groups of workers in the highway subdistrict office, namely, Northern Thai (26, or 81.25 %) and Lua' (6, or 18.75 %). All of these highway workers are men.

Place of Residence of Highway Workers

Table 8 shows the domicile of workers in the highway sub-district offices. The majority of workers have their domicile in Mae Hong Son. This includes 13 Northern Thai men and 6 Lua' men or 40.62 and 18.75 percent of all highway workers respectively. The remaining 13 workers (40.63 %) are from Chiang Mai Province.

NOTES

1. Research supported under Grant No. BNS7914093, from the National Science Foundation, Peter Kunstadter, East-West Population Institute, Honolulu, Hawaii, principal investigator.
2. Tribal Data Project 1972, Directory of Tribal Villages in Northern Administration Division, Changwat Mae Hong Son.
3. Source : National Statistical Office of Thailand.
4. National Economic and Social Development Board, Office of the Prime Minister. The Fourth National Economic and Social Development Plan. (1977-1978) Bangkok, Thailand.
5. Wacharakitti, S. 1978. The assessment of forest areas from LANDSAT imagery. A paper presented to Forestry Conference, Royal Forest Department, Bangkok, 6-14 November, 1978 (in Thai with English Summary).
6. Information from Department of Mineral Resources, Bangkok.

Table 1. Employment in Forest Plantations.¹

No.	Name and Location	No. of Workers Distributed by Work Basis					
		Permanent		Temporary		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
	Forest plantation at Tambon Pang Mu, Amphoe Muang Mae Hong Son	60	13	75	-	135	13
	Forest plantation at Tambon Mok Champae, Amphoe Muang Mae Hong Son	28	-	46	24	74	24
	Forest plantation at Ban Mae Ho, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	45	18	50	80	95	98
4.	Highland Forestry Development Unit 3 at Ban Mae Ho, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	6	-	200	140	206	140
5.	Highland Forestry Development Unit 4 at Tambon Khun Yuam, Amphoe Khun Yuam Mae Hong Son	7	-	172	98	179	98
6.	Forest plantation at Tambon Huai Pong, Amphoe Muang Mae Hong Son	9	6	27	18	36	24
	Total	155	37	570	360	725	397
	Average	25.83	6.17	95	60	120.83	66.16

1

Information from interviews with the heads of these plantation units

1 = same village or tambon; 2 = same amphoe but in different tambon; 3 = in different amphoe from plantation.

Table 3. Employment in Sawmill.²

No.	Name and Location	No. of Workers Distributed by Work Basis					
		<u>Permanent</u>		<u>Temporary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
1.	Chumpanathewan Sawmill Partnership. Amphoe Pai, Mae Hong Son	18	-	44	20	62	20
2.	Mae Hong Son Sawmill Coopera- tive. Amphoe Muang Mae Hong Son Mae Hong Son	4	3	53	12	57	15
3.	Portable Sawmill of Forest Industry Organization. Km 109 Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	7	-	-	-	7	-
4.	Nakhon Mai Sawmill Partnership. Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	12	-	30	30	42	30
5.	Panasit Sawmill Cooperative. Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	8	2	68	12	76	14
Total		49	5	195	74	244	79
Average		9.8	1	39	14.8	48.8	15.8

² Information from interviews with the manager of Sawmills.

Table 4. Employment in Sawmill distributed by Ethnicity and Domicile of Workers

No.	Name and Location	Ethnicity												Total			
		Northern Thai residence				Karen residence				N.E.Thai		C.Thai					
		Mae Hong Son		Other		Mae Hong Son											
		1	2			1	2										
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
1.	Chumpanathewan Sawmill Partnership. Amphoe Pai, Mae Hong Son	38	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	62	20
2.	Mae Hong Son Sawmill Cooperative. Amphoe Muang Mae Hong Son	21	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-	57	15
3.	Portable sawmill of Forest Industry Organization. Km 109 Amphoe Muang, Mae Hong Son	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
4.	Nakhon Mai Sawmill Partnership. Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	27	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	12	-	42	30
5.	Panasit Sawmill Cooperative. Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	69	14	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	76	14
Total		155	79	-	-	7	-	6	-	3	-	61	-	12	-	244	79
Percent		47.98	24.46	-	-	2.17	-	1.86	-	0.93	-	18.89	-	3.71	-		

1 = same village or tambon; 2 = same amphoe but in different tambon
N.E.= Northeastern; C = Central.

Table 5. Employment in Mines.³

No.	Name and Location	No. of Workers Distributed by Work Basis					
		Permanent		Temporary		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
1.	Umaree Mine. Tambon Mae Katuan, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	17	-	27	3	44	3
2.	Mae Lama Mine (Panasit Company) Tambon Mae Yuam, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	20	-	105	15	125	15
3.	Umporn Choowatanakul Mine, Tambon Mae Yuam, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	2	-	43	-	45	-
4.	Udom Mine. Tambon Mae Yuam, Amphoe Sariang, Mae Hong Son	3	-	35	-	38	-
5.	Wongdian Honghirun Mine. Tambon Mae Yuam, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	4	-	35	10	39	10
Total		46	-	245	28	291	28
Average		9.2	-	49	5.6	58.2	5.6

³

Information from interviews with the manager of Mines.

Table 6. Employment in Mines Distributed by Ethnicity and Domicile of Workers

No.	Name and Location	Northern Thai residence						Karen residence						C.Thai N.E. Thai				Total	
		Mae Hong Son			Other			Mae Hong Son			Burma								
		1		2	Other			1	2										
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	Umaree Mine. Tambon Mae Katuan, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Song	-	-	16	-	1	-	27	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	3
2	Mae Lama Mine (Panasit Company) Tambon Mae Yuam, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	-	-	22	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	87	15	-	-	1	-	125	15
3	Umporn Choowatanakul Mine. Tambon Mae Yuam Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	-	-	-	-	-	45	-
4	Udom Mine. Tambon Mae Yuam, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	33	-
5	Wongdian Hongirun Mine. Tambon Mae Yuam, Amphoe Mae Sariang Mae Hong Son	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	35	10	1	-	-	-	39	10
Total:		-	-	48	-	14	-	27	3	20	-	180	25	1	-	1	-	291	28
Percent		-	-	15.05	-	4.39	-	8.46	0.94	6.27	-	56.43	7.84	0.31	-	0.31	-	91.11	8.78

1 = same village or tambon; 2 = same amphoe but in different tambon

C = Central; N.E. = Northeastern.

Table 7. Employment in Highway Subdistrict Office and Highway Project.⁴

No.	Name and Location	No. of Workers Distributed by Work Basis					
		Permanent		Temporary		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
1.	Mae Ho Highway Subdistrict Office. Mae Ho, Tambon Mae Sariang, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	18	-	-	-	18	-
2.	Highway Subdistrict at km 109. Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	14	-	-	-	14	-
	Total	32	-	-	-	32	-
	Average	16	-	-	-	16	-

4

Information from interviews with the officers of Highway Subdistrict office and Highway Project.

Table 8. Employment in Highway Subdistrict Office and Highway Project Distributed by Ethnicity and Domicile of Worker.

		Ethnicity											
		Northern Thai domicile						Lue' domicile					
		Mae Hong Son			Others			Mae Hong Son				Total	
No.	Name and Location	1		2		M	F	1		2		M	F
		M	F	M	F			M	F	M	F		
1.	Mae Ho Highway Subdistrict Office, Amphoe Mae Sariang, Mae Hong Son	-	-	2	-	10	-	-	-	6	-	18	-
2.	Mae Sariang Highway Subdistrict Office, Amphoe Mae Sariang Mae Hong Son	-	-	11	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
Total		-	-	13	-	13	-	-	-	6	-	32	-
Per cent		-	-	40.60	-	40.60	-	-	-	18.80	-	100	-

Domicile: 1 = Same village or town or tambon as office or project;

2 = Same amphoe as office or project, different tambon.

Conclusion

In 1981, the total employment in Mae Hong Son in 4 nonfarm industries are about 1976 (1292 men and 504 women) or 1.35 per cent of the provincial population (the estimated population is about 132,391), this included workers in forest plantation units 1,122 (725 men and 397 women); sawmills & plywood factory 323 (244 men and 79 women); mines 319 (291 men and 28 women); and high way sub-districts offices 32 (all men). The ethnicity of workers are classified into 6 ethnic groups, namely, Northern Thai 1,149 (746 men and 403 women) or 63.97 %; North Eastern Thai 62 men or 3.45 %; Central Thai 17 men or 0.95 %; Thai Yai 188 (86 men and 32 women) or 6.57 %; Karen 363 (324 men and 39 women) or 20.21 %; and Lua' 87 (57 men and 30 women) or 4.85 %;. The domicile of workers are divided into 5 categories, namely, Mae Hong Son 711 (519 men and 192 women) or 39.59 %; other Northern Provinces (except Mae Hong Son) 786 (499 men and 287 women) or 43.76 %; Central 17 men or 0.95 %; North Eastern 62 men or 3.45 %; and Burma 220 (195 men and 25 women) or 12.25 %;

This shows that the total amount of local workers are employed by the mentioned nonfarm industries is very quite small, and the opportunity of the local women workers in searching for the jobs is also quite low. So this will call for the Nonfarm Industry Development Programme in order to absorb more number of local workers. The Development Programme could be implemented in the forest plantation units. The land shortage is the most important problem in this industry, this because, almost of the remaining reserved forest have been occupied by the shifting cultivators. In order to overcome such problems, the forest villages should be established.

References:

1. National Economic and Social Development Board, Office of the Prime Minister. The Fourth National Economic and Social Development Plan. (1977-1978) Bangkok, Thailand.
2. Tribal Data Project 1972, Directory of Tribal Villages in Northern Administrative Division, Changwat Mae Hong Son.
3. Wacharakitti, S. 1978. The assessment of forest areas from LANDSAT imagery. A paper presented to Forestry Conference, Royal Forest Department, Bangkok, 6-14 November, 1978. (in Thai with English Summary)